

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments**  
**Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 10:00 am**  
**MetroCOG Conference Room Bridgeport, Connecticut**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy)	Bridgeport
Adam Dunsby, First Selectman	Easton
Michael Tetreau, First Selectman, Chairman	Fairfield
Ken Kellogg, First Selectman	Monroe
Laura Hoydick, Mayor	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Larry Ciccarelli, Administrative Services Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Deputy Finance Director	MetroCOG
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Sara Radacsi (Teleconference)	CTDOT
Erica Muniz	GPI
Bridget Boucaud	VN Engineers
Robert Gomez	VN Engineers
Alex Slatky	AAA
Eileen Lopez Cordone	UI
Zack McKeown	CCM
Robert Halstead	Member of the Public
Alyssa Israel	Member of the Public
Claude Young	Member of the Public
Kevin Blagys	Member of the Public

## Minutes

### **I. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by chairman, First Selectman Tetreau, at 10:05 AM.

### **II. Public Participation:**

First Selectman Tetreau explained the process for public comment to the meeting attendees. He requested that comments be kept to a maximum of three minutes.

Mr. Halstead expressed concern over the current design of the bike trail going through Bridgeport. He feels that Bridgeport was short changed in comparison to surrounding towns. Mr. Halstead also expressed concern over a lack of opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Halstead noted that the current trail is impassible and would like to get a bike route and bike/ped coalition like the one in Fairfield.

Mr. Halstead would like Bridgeport children to have the same opportunity as children in Trumbull. He feels that the money is not needed for the current planned alignment of the Pequonnock River Trail because no one would use the on-road portion in Bridgeport. Rather, money should be invested in getting cars off the road and providing access to green space, as well as a route he described to the board.

Ms. Israel introduced herself as a bike/ped advocate from Fairfield who attended the meeting in support of Mr. Halstead and his efforts to obtain more public participation. Their goal was to forge more bike/ped relationships between Fairfield and Bridgeport.

Mr. Young explained that he assisted with the original grant application and expressed concern that the current utilization of the grant was not its original intent. Mr. Young is disheartened but understood that politics and changes in administration had a role.

Mr. Young expressed concern that a large sum of money was used for a path at Beardsley Park, when it could have been used for paint. He felt that there was no need for a path.

Mr. Young noted that \$400,000 was being held for matching federal funds. Any other usage of the funds will create federal oversight issues. Mr. Young would like to be involved to fulfill the intent of the grant.

Mr. Flatto commented that he was not involved in the proposal but invited the members of the public to attend a Bridgeport Council meeting. Mr. Flatto will voice concerns to the Office of Policy and Economic Development.

### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- a. **October 25, 2018:** Mayor Hoydick made a motion to approve minutes. The motion was seconded by First Selectman Kellogg. The motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. Presentation: MetroCOG Regional Transportation Safety Plan**

Mr. Gomez of VN Engineers explained that VN was hired by CTDOT to determine how to reduce fatalities and serious accidents on local and state roads. Mr. Gomez provided an overview of the process and explained that VN would meet with each town individually to identify trouble spots.

A member of the public asked a question.

First Selectman Tetreau noted that the public comment period was over and requested that any public questions be held until after the meeting.

Mr. Flatto inquired about how the data was correlated to the volume of traffic.

Mr. Gomez responded that VMT information was considered in the analysis. He noted that the top 100 incident locations would be discussed, with separate sections for auto and bike/ped.

Mayor Hoydick inquired if recommendations were based on statutes. Specifically, the State does not allow cameras. Mayor Hoydick asked if there was data available from other states to assist in lobbying for the use of cameras.

Mr. Gomez responded that it was possible to lobby CTDOT to keep cameras as a recommendation if that was what the COG wanted to do. Mr. Gomez commented that every municipality is different and has its own preferences.

First Selectman Dunsby inquired if the plan needed to be approved by the board.

Mr. Fulda responded that it was not necessary but added weight to the report.

Mr. Gomez noted that the next step was to meet with municipalities.

Mr. Fulda commented that he has been in touch with VN and provided contact information for each town.

First Selectman Kellogg responded that he would like to be involved and inquired if final recommendations were based on respective communities and if recommendations would be made for each municipality.

Mr. Gomez noted that VN makes every effort to be as inclusive as possible.

Ms. Boucaud added that the focus would be the top crashes in each town and that each town would receive their own report.

First Selectman Tetreau inquired what was being done about future projections and requested expert opinions as to how current issues will affect future impacts.

Mr. Gomez responded that this was the first time the question has come up, but he would like to factor it in to the report.

First Selectman Tetreau asked if there would be opportunities for public engagement.

Mr. Gomez responded that that item was not currently in the scope of work but he would bring the suggestion back to CTDOT.

Ms. Boucaud recommended an update every five years, which would provide more opportunities for public engagement.

A member of the public began to make a comment. First Selectman Tetreau stated that the presentation was for the board and that the public comment period was over. First Selectman Tetreau reminded those attending that questions for the presenters could be discussed after the meeting was adjourned. One member of the public left the meeting.

The presentation ended at 10:54

## **V. Action Items:**

### **a. Audit**

Mr. Fulda explained that the changes requested at the October meeting had been made and the audit was finalized.

Mr. Flatto commented that he reviewed the audit and was in concurrence with Mr. Fulda.

Mr. Flatto made a motion to approve the audit. The motion was seconded by First Selectman Dunsby. The motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Dunsby noted that he also read through the audit and found no issues and requested confirmation that the audit would be posted to the website.

Mr. Fulda confirmed that it would.

**VI. Communications & Announcements:**

**a. REPT Report**

First Selectman Kellogg commented that there was not much to report. Some issues had been discovered with the electronic variable message sign's control panels and REPT money was needed to make sure they were evaluated and maintained. First Selectman Kellogg noted that a Statewide exercise information was to come.

First Selectman Tetreau inquired if there was any focus on stormwater.

First Selectman Kellogg responded that there would be an upcoming seminar on climate change impacts to emergency management.

Mr. Fulda noted that ACOE will be reviewing and redrawing inland flood zones.

Mr. Carleton responded that inland flooding would have a focus in the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**b. Financials**

Mr. Ciccarelli went through the current financials and noted that MetroCOG was on track to receive all its revenue and was spending under operational budget.

First Selectman Tetreau commented that he would like to set up a board discussion to go over the indirect rate and how to build a surplus to maintain the long-term functionality of the COG.

**VI. Other Business:**

**a. Executive Director Update on MetroCOG Activities:**

**i. Hazard Mitigation Plan update**

Mr. Fulda explained that the final contract was received, and the next step would be public engagement. Mr. Fulda noted that the COG will be working with town staff and assistants.

**ii. County Equivalency update:**

Mr. Fulda noted that no updates are expected until after the administration change.

**b. Next Meeting Dates**

**i. December 12, 2018**

Mr. Fulda commented that the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting has been moved to

December 12<sup>th</sup> due to a conflict with a scheduled CCM meeting.

Mayor Hoydick inquired when a GBVMPO agenda would be available, especially if there would be a significant number of amendments for the board to review prior to the meeting.

Mr. Fulda responded that he would reach out to CTDOT to confirm deadlines.

First Selectman Kellogg asked if a date was scheduled for the Laserfiche presentation. Mr. Fulda commented that there was not enough quick response so a new date will be scheduled the week of December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Participation**

Mr. Blagys missed the public participation portion of the meeting and requested permission from the chair to have the floor. First Selectman Tetreau asked other members if they were OK with this request and there was agreement that Mr. Blagys could have the floor. Mayor Hoydick left at 11:10.

Mr. Blagys commented that he reviewed the 50-page report put out by the City of Bridgeport and noted that it was not as creative as it could be. He expressed concern over congestion in Bridgeport and would like to maintain the bike trail as it is supposed to be. Mr. Blagys hoped to provide a video of a proposed route at the next City Council meeting.

### **VIII. Adjourn**

At 11:14. First Selectman Kellogg made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. The motion carried unanimously.

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First Selectman Adam Dunsby  
MetroCOG Secretary